

lead people to think that the similar phenomenon seen on the Trent goes by that name. No Trent-side would understand what Miss Mason meant if she talked to him of the Bore. He calls it Ager or Eger, a word which purists will probably admit to be good book English, as it has been used by Joshua Sprague, the historian of Fairfax's victories, Dryden, and Miss Ingelow. It may be—indeed, we think it is—quite as important that people should know about Robin Hood as that the careers of Wedgwood and Dr. Rowland Taylor should be set before them, but it is hardly fair to speak of them as if they were all three historical characters in the same sense. If Miss Mason is of opinion that the merry outlaw of the ballads was "really a nobleman born," and did this and that glorious exploit just as truly as Wedgwood caused pots to be made or Taylor suffered martyrdom, it is high time that she consulted some of the better modern literature on the subject.

*The Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Magazine* for December, 1880 (Devizes, Bull), is half filled by an account of the Congress of the British Archaeological Association at Devizes during last August, with which gathering the annual meeting of the Wiltshire Society was combined. Canon Jackson continues his extracts from the Longleat Papers, and we have here the fifth instalment, being details of the expenses of Lady Arabella Stuart's "progress" during 1609, the year before her imprisonment in the Tower. It may be remembered that this unfortunate lady was daughter to Elizabeth Cavendish, and on her father's side niece to Mary Queen of Scots, therefore cousin to James I., whose successor on the throne she would have been had he died childless. Her clandestine marriage in 1610 with William Seymour, the Protector Somerset's great-grandson, a few months after her progress into Derbyshire, the county of her birth, put an end to her liberty and travels, the cruel treatment she received from the king causing the loss of her reason, and her death in captivity in 1611. Her kindness of heart is shown by her frequent alms to the poor, who seem to have been always crowding at her gate. On Tuesday, 22nd of August, 1609, there is entered:—"I'mprimis, given this day at the garden gate at Whitehall to the poor as my Lady took her coach to come into the country, 8s. 4d." At St. Albans, where she supped and slept, and her twenty horses were fed, we find 10s. given to musicians and 10s. to the poor at the gates, and 4s. 11d. to "the poor on the way back to St. Albans and Taddington." At the latter place as much as 7l. 12s. 6d. was divided "among the officers in my Lady Cheyne's house," and to the same species of dwellers in marble halls Lady Arabella's bounty was distributed with the like liberality at every place where she stopped throughout her journey. We have a pleasant view of the cavalcade when 1s. 1d. is "paid for ale when my Lady stayed to drinke on the way betwixt Duxton and Sheffield." At Derby she gives 5l. to the poor of the town. The whole expenses of the progress were 323l. 18s., besides a few bills that followed.

*The Proceedings of the Somersetshire Archaeological and Natural History Society*, Vol. XXV. (Longmans & Co.), presents a Report of the Pen Pits Exploration Committee. These pits are scattered over a surface of about 700 acres in the neighbourhood of Stourhead, North Somerset, and have been estimated to be about 20,000 in number. The locality being known as Penselwood, Mr. Kerlake has argued its identity with Caer Penselwood of Nennius, and explains the numerous excavations to be the pit dwellings of an ancient people whose great western metropolis was at this place. The "sketchy and tentative" character of the investigations of the Pen Pits Committee has not enabled them to bring philological and ethnological theories into agreement, and in the opinion of the Rev. H. M. Searle the earthworks in the pit district, together with addi-

tional pits, must be examined before any conclusive evidence against a very early settlement can be derived. Other papers are an excellent one on "Henry VII. in Somersetshire," "Vestiges of the Norman Conquest of Somerset," and "On the Family of Roger Bacon."

Prof. Edward Boehmer has just published a pair of books at Bonn which will prove of considerable interest to a certain circle of readers. In 1874 Dr. Boehmer published the first volume of the 'Bibliotheca Wiffeniana,' a collection of essays and bibliographical notices dealing with the lives and writings of Spanish Reformers from 1520 onwards, largely based in some parts on the labours of the Quaker student Benjamin Wiffen, whose memoirs we noticed a few months ago. The most interesting article in the book was concerned with the brothers Juan and Alfonso de Valdés, of whom the first is well known to Spanish readers as the author of the lively and philologically interesting 'Dialogo de las Lenguas.' Dr. Boehmer gave a minute account of their works, and a catalogue of all extant editions and translations, mentioning as lost a translation of the Psalms into Spanish from the original Hebrew, known to have been executed by Juan de Valdés about 1540, and the Spanish originals of the same author's 'Hundred and Ten Considerations,' which remain to us in early Italian, French, Dutch, and English translations, and which were retranslated from Italian into Spanish in 1855 by Wiffen's fellow worker, Luis de Uroz y Rio, the founder of the creditable series of 'Reformistas Antiguos Españoles.' Dr. Boehmer has now discovered the missing translation of the Psalms with a preface addressed by Valdés to Giulia de Gonzaga, and has also unearthed 39 of the 110 missing Spanish originals of the 'Considerations,' together with seven letters by Valdés hitherto unknown, making his finds in the Royal Library at Vienna, under the guidance of Denis's catalogue of the theological MSS. in that library, published 1794-5. In his edition of the letters and 'Considerations,' now published under the title of *Traductos por Juan de Valdés*, Dr. Boehmer has adopted the orthography observed by Uroz y Rio in the series of the 'Reformistas,' the spelling of the MS. being extremely illiterate and variable, but in *El Salterio en Romance Castellano* he has produced a careful critical edition of the original text, giving full and valuable notes on all linguistic peculiarities. The date of the translation, about thirteen years earlier than the Ferrara Old Testament, the source upon which Reyna and Valera are known to have drawn in their Spanish versions of the Bible in 1569 and 1602, will alone draw attention to Dr. Boehmer's find. The earliest Spanish version of the Psalms known to us was made by or under the superintendence of Alfonso el Sabio, about 1270, as a part of the extensive translations from the Vulgate inserted by him in his 'Grande et General Estoria,' a work of which the greater part is still extant in MS., and which has been described by Amador de los Rios in his 'Hist. Crit. de la Literatura Española,' vol. iii. p. 697.

## SCHOOL-BOOKS.

*The Fasti of Ovid*. Edited, with Notes and Indices, by G. H. Hallam, M.A. (Macmillan & Co.)

As edition of the 'Fasti' with indecencies omitted, with short arguments which might give to the text a definiteness which schoolboys especially require, and with notes which should not demoralize, has for long been sorely needed. Mr. Hallam, from his experience "both as a boy at school who struggled unassisted with the 'Fasti' years ago, and as a teacher of it for the last ten years at Harrow," is well fitted to do the work, and he has done it, especially in the matter of the notes, most successfully. The printing, both of text and of notes, is all that could be wished.

*Macmillan's Progressive French Reader*.—L. First Year. By G. Eugène Fauchet. (Macmillan & Co.)

The passages are fairly selected. Far too much help is given at the end of the book.

*An Introduction to Geometry for the Use of Beginners*, consisting of Euclid I. With Numerous Explanations, Questions, and Exercises by John Walmley, B.A. (Hodgson & Co.)

We cordially recommend this book. The plan adopted is founded upon a proper appreciation of the soundest principles of teaching. We have not space to give it in detail, but Mr. Walmley is fully justified in saying that it provides "for a natural and continuous training to pupils taken in classes." We will add that no red ink has been employed in the construction lines of the figures, for which in these days we have much reason to be thankful.

*Cæsar: Scenes from the Fifth and Sixth Books of the Gallic War*. Edited, for the Use of Schools, by C. Colbeck, M.A. (Macmillan & Co.)

This is "an attempt to make the most for young boys of an interesting portion of Cæsar." The important feature of this capital little book is an introduction, consisting of four clear and concise chapters upon the conquest of Gaul, the Roman army, the Gauls, and the Germans respectively; and it would be difficult in the same space to improve it. The notes are equally satisfactory.

*Lazare Hoche*. Par Emile de Bonnechose. With Introduction and Commentary by C. Colbeck, M.A. (Cambridge, Pitt Press.)

This eloquent story of a noble career is, for its intrinsic merits alone, well worthy of the place which the Cambridge Syndicate have given it in their "Higher Local" list. It is equally worthy as a passage of history, except for the fact that to understand it, as indeed to understand Mr. Colbeck's introduction (in itself an admirable piece of truly condensed history), the reader must have gone through a preparation at least as careful and extensive as that laid down in the preface as necessary for an appreciation of Carlyle's great work on the Revolution. In the notes, which are very good, frequent reference has been made to our best school French grammar.

*Histoire de Bayart*. Par D'Aubigné. With Grammatical and Explanatory Notes by Jules Bud. (Hachette & Co.)

This easy though sufficiently idiomatic French of D'Aubigné, and the interest which boys and girls feel in the life of a military hero who lived when one strong arm was worth six weak ones, will make this a pleasant book enough for both teacher and pupil. The notes are of good quality, but, as usual, too numerous. The book is well illustrated.

*Zopf und Schwert: Lustspiel in Fünf Aufzügen*. Von Karl Gutzkow. With Biographical and Historical Introduction, &c., by H. J. Wolstenholme, B.A. (Cambridge, Pitt Press.)

We are to regard this as "an attempt to apply, to some extent, at least, and with suitable modifications, to a modern language principles long recognized in the study of Greek and Latin." The intention is most highly to be praised. We confess ourselves, however, unable to discern any very special effort in the direction indicated; but the selection is good, the introduction is carefully written, and the notes are suggestive and legitimate.

*A School German Grammar*. By H. W. Eve, M.A. (Nutt.)

We are inclined to doubt the wisdom of encumbering boys with elaborate German grammar. Boys usually learn French before beginning German, and when they have been well taught the



grammar of one modern language, the less they are troubled with questions of syntax the better. Mr. Eve has evidently taken pains; but his terminology is a little complicated, and he indulges in explanations full of superfluous details. Take, for instance, the remarks on the use of *du*. They may be of value to a teacher, but they are quite lost on schoolboys. As a book of reference the volume may be used with advantage.

## LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

## ENGLISH.

- Duckley's (Rev. J. F.) Short Commentary on the Proper Lessons, cr. 8vo, 2/6 cl.  
Churchman's Altar Manual, 32mo, 2/6 cl.  
Cutt's (Rev. E. L.) Breaking of the Bread, an Explanation of Holy Communion, with Notes, 18mo, 2/6 cl.  
Harper's (C.) The Metaphysics of the School, Vol. 2, 8vo, 18/6.  
Lee's (T. G.) Order out of Chaos, Three Sermons, 12mo, 7/6 cl.  
Potters (Rev. H. C.) Hermans of the City, cr. 8vo, 3/6 cl.  
Wyllie's (Rev. H. H.) Principal Heresies related to our Lord's Incarnation, 12mo, 7/6 cl.

## Latin.

- Cump's (F. O.) Practice of the Supreme Court of Judicature, Alphabetically Arranged: Part I, Chancery Division, by F. Evans, 8vo, 20/6 cl.

## Poetry and the Drama.

- Barlow's (G.) Song Bloom, cr. 8vo, 7/6 cl.  
Benson's (H. St. John) The Tribune Reflects, and other Poems, cr. 8vo, 6/6 cl.  
Foreign Classics for English Readers: Corneille and Racine, by H. M. Trollope, 12mo, 2/6 cl.  
Jennas's (W.) Fair Isle, a Tale in Verse, cr. 8vo, 2/6 bds.

## History and Biography.

- Beaconsfield (Earl of), his Life and Work, by L. Apolito, 7/6 cl.  
Caryle (Thomas), by H. J. Nicol, with Portrait, cr. 8vo, 2/6 cl.  
Caryle (Thomas), his Man and his Books, by W. H. Wylie, cr. 8vo, 7/6 cl.  
Clyde (Lord), his Life, illustrated by Extracts from his diary and Correspondence, by Lord-General Stairford, 2 vols., 8vo, 30/6 cl.  
Froude's (J. A.) History of England, Vol. 2, Popular Edition, cr. 8vo, 2/6 cl.

## Geography and Travel.

- Boyd's (H. Nelson) Chili, Sketches of Chili and the Chilians during the War, 1879-80, cr. 8vo, 10/6 cl.  
Freeman's (E.) Historical Geography of Europe, 2 vols., Vol. 1, Text, Vol. 2, Maps, cr. 8vo, 11/6 cl.  
Oliver & Boyd's Handy Atlas of the World, cr. 8vo, 2/6 cl.  
Silver & Co.'s Handy Atlas of Canada, cr. 8vo, 5/6 cl.

## Philology.

- Handbook of English and Greek Dialogues and Correspondence, 12mo, 2/6 cl.  
Lange's (F. K.) Germania, Anthology of German Prose, cr. 8vo, 3/6 cl.  
Livy, History of Rome, Book 5, with Notes by Pierce Egan, 12mo, 4/6 bds.

## Science.

- Crookshank's (H.) Manual of Home Nursing and Hygiene, cr. 8vo, 2/6 cl.  
Fothergill's (J. M.) Aids to Rational Therapeutics, 12mo, 2/6 cl.  
Holloway's (R.) Practical Surgery, 8vo, 3/6 cl.  
Mivart's (B. G.) The Cat, an Introduction to Study of Backboned Animals, 8vo, 3/6 cl.  
Morton's (A. S.) Refraction of the Eye, its Diagnosis, &c., cr. 8vo, 2/6 cl.  
Bawyer's (W. E.) Electric Lighting, 8vo, 10/6 cl.  
Winlow's (L. S. F.) Feasting and Feeding Psychologically Considered, 8vo, 2/6 cl.

## General Literature.

- Alexander's (Mrs.) Maid, Wife, or Widow, cr. 8vo, 2/6 cl.  
Bosart (W.) and Rice's (J.) The Heavy Side, 12mo, 2/6 bds.  
Garrett's (P.) The House by the Water, cr. 8vo, 5/6 cl.  
Gillmore's (P.) Encounters with Wild Beasts, cr. 8vo, 7/6 cl.  
Irish Problems (The), and How to See It, 8vo, 6/6 cl.  
Jensen's (M. L.) Dorothy Brown, cr. 8vo, 10/6 cl.  
My Lady Capote, by Rita, 3 vols., cr. 8vo, 20/6 cl.  
My Start in Life, by a Young 'Middy', cr. 8vo, 6/6 cl.  
Rogers's (Major E.) A Modern Saladin, 8vo, cr. 8vo, 31/6 cl.  
Round's (O. S.) Ashton Hall, cr. 8vo, 10/6 cl.  
Seeling's (Capt. R.) Military Maxims and Aphorisms of Wood's (S.) The Ladies' Museum in Paris Flower Garden, cr. 8vo, 2/6 cl.

## FOREIGN.

## Theology.

- Sammlung Kleiner Mittheilungen, ed. C. M. Horowitz, Pt. 1, 2m. 8vo, 4/6 cl.  
Breitana (E.) Zur Lösung der Trinitätsfrage, 3m. 50.

## History and Biography.

- Bosart (E.) Les Abénakis de l'Yves, 1783-1786, 2m. 50.  
Ling (Ch.) Bonaparte et le Temps, 1789-1799, Vol. 3, 3fr. 50.  
Lustberg (G.) De Annetia anno cccxvii. a Chr. B. ab Abrenitensis Decretis, 2m.

## Geography.

- Jahrbuch, Geographisches, 1880, ed. H. Wagner, 10m.

## Philology.

- Dellbach (F.) u. Haupt (P.) Assyriologische Bibliothek, Pt. 1, 2m.  
Hartmann (M.) Arabische Sprachlehre, 6m.  
Ullrich (M.) Die Grammatik d. Vorderasiatischen Chinesisch, Pt. 1, 6m.

## Science.

- De Saporta et Marion (F.) L'Évolution du Règne Végétal (Les Cryptogames), 12m.  
Robert La Substance, Essai de Philosophie Naturelle, 2fr. 50.

## General Literature.

- Quétand (E.) La Grèce et la Question des 30,000 Fustes, Historique et Notes d'après des Documents Originaux, 1fr.

Saint-Jair: Chénier l'Amour, Roman Parisien, 3m. 50.  
Wagner (R. A.) Lesung-Torchtung, 2m.  
Well (A.): Un Tout Petit Trésor d'Esprit, 2fr.

## RANDOLPH'S 'HEY FOR HONESTY.'

In a copy of Randolph's posthumous and very scarce play, 'Πλουτοδωλῖα Πλουτογὰρ;' or, Hey for Honesty, 1651, which has just come into my hands, I find a prefatory leaf of songs which I have not seen in any other example of the play, and which seem to have been unknown alike to the original editor of Randolph's works and to Mr. W. Carew Hazlitt, whose careful reprint of 1875 is in the hands of all students of seventeenth century poetry. As nothing can be unimportant which increases our knowledge of so considerable a poet as Randolph, and as these songs seem to be unknown, I take the liberty of copying them:—

## SONG THE FIRST.

Youth and beauty: strength and grace,  
Health and a perpetual pleasure,  
Wait on this immediate place,  
Joyes still flowing without measure.  
Break forth like perfect rays of light,  
That know no sad privation, not by night.  
Here, O here these beauties dwell,  
So superlatively rare,  
That no tongue can justly tell,  
Which is most extremely faire,  
Such equal graces in man more,  
Each is the sphere of true unvalued love.

## SONG THE SECOND.

Beautie, vertue, wealth and wit,  
Here conjoyne their glorious graces,  
Tis in Justice then most fit,  
They should have the prime of faces,  
And with man's best Excellence unite,  
This trusty and courageous Knight.  
Chorus.—For who has such a face, such a grace as he,  
Who seems the King of shades to be.  
Had faire Venus beene a Nun,  
Or Phoebe like blind Cupid's mother,  
Daphne who did this, the Sun  
To him had yielded, to no other,  
Who is man perfect abstract right,  
This trusty and courageous Knight.  
Chorus.—For who has such a face, such a grace as he,  
Who seems the very King of shades to be.

Both songs seem founded on the manner of Fletcher; at least the writer of the second had plainly been reading "Fair Calisto was a nun."  
EDMUND W. GOSSE.

## LITERARY GOSSIP.

THE paragraph which, under the above heading, appears in your journal, and has been copied in several leading newspapers, implies that I am preparing to write an autobiography, which I beg leave to state is not the case, although many of my *confidants* have asked me to do so, and your informant may possibly be of the number.

I am merely engaged in examining the long-life collection of letters alluded to, by way of eliminating from the immense bulk, which I am about to destroy, a small per-centage consisting of what appear to me to be of literary or holo-graphic value; take, for instance, those of Carlyle, of which I ought to have more than I have yet found. If I continue to be blessed with sufficient health and brain-power, my coming literary occupation will be a descriptive and annotated catalogue of my extensive collection of miniatures and old masters, a growing love of the fine arts having for some years past superseded my devotion to bibliography. But in my eighty-sixth year I cannot count on the fructification of any such intentions.

Permit me to take the present occasion to announce that, in consequence of much pressing solicitation, I am about to arrange with my successors for the publication at a low price, probably half-a-guinea, of my privately printed 'Dictionary of English Poetical Quotations,' which fourteen years ago I dedicated almost exclusively to the members of the Philobiblon Society, of which I had become a member, and my personal friends, English and foreign. Vanity prompts me to add that, although five hundred copies were printed and distributed, only three or four have ever come to market, and these have, with scarcely an exception,

fetched five guineas by auction. The book will be duly advertised in your columns.

HENRY G. BOHN.

## NOTES FROM OXFORD.

March, 1881.

THE close of a rather uneventful term has been marked by the introduction of a measure the real importance of which is greater than would appear at first sight. Some two years ago the Government resolved to require the selected candidates for the Indian Civil Service to reside at Oxford or Cambridge during the period between the passing of their first examination and their final departure for India. The University of Oxford at once determined to provide the necessary teaching, and readers in Indian law and in the principal Indian languages were appointed. Since then a very fair proportion of the selected candidates have availed themselves of these privileges, have matriculated, and have resided here as undergraduates. But though they can matriculate, they cannot take degrees, for not only is the necessary three years' residence impossible for them, but the pressure of the Government examinations is such as to leave them no leisure for preparing for the "Schools" here. This enforced exclusion from the degrees of the University they naturally feel to be a hardship which considerably detracts from the many advantages attaching to their residence here, and there is a general feeling that its removal would be a real boon to a very deserving body of men. Such is briefly the history of the statute which was promulgated on the 15th of this month. It proposes to remit, so far as this one class of students is concerned, the first of the required three years of residence, and also to relieve them of the necessity of passing Responsions. They will still be required to pass Moderations and the Final Examination; but here a further concession is to be made in their favour. They will be allowed in the Final Schools to offer the same subjects that are required for the Government examinations, so that the work they do for the one will count for the other. Now if the interests of the Indian candidates and their claims on our consideration were all that was involved in these proposed concessions, no one would say a word against them. But the issue is much wider, for this statute in reality touches the whole system of University degrees, and the serious objection to it is that, without directly and openly raising the main question, it will, if carried, establish a precedent for a completely new mode of procedure in this respect, and it is just those of us who go the furthest in approving of this new procedure who are most anxious that it should not be thus smuggled in without any careful discussion of its merits as a whole, or any careful provision for its successful working. And the public cannot too soon be brought to realize how vital and radical are the changes thus indirectly sanctioned. If we pass this statute we first of all allow the principle that the tests of admission to a degree may be modified and relaxed in favour of this or that special class of students. Secondly, we abandon what has hitherto been regarded as the special distinction of Oxford and Cambridge degrees, the three years' term of residence. Thirdly, we propose for the first time in our history to grant a degree on the strength of a test which is not of our own devising, and which in reality we do not ourselves apply; for the final examination, or rather the somewhat painful apology for a final examination, which the Indian candidates will be required to pass, is only a rather mild reproduction of that which the Government imposes. It is the merest of forms, and such, we have been told, it was meant to be and must be, since a serious independent University examination would be as effectual an apology for the hard-pressed civilians as the three years' residence is at present. Now there are certainly many of us